

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1918

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AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLIAISON MISSION PEKING

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 3832

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NL, CH

SUBJ: DUTCH PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION VISIT TO PRC

REF: THE HAGUE 3699

1. DUTCH MEDIA ARE CARRYING REPORTS AND STATEMENTS BY RETURNING MEMBERS OF DUTCH PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION WHICH VISITED PRC AUG 17-26. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS.

2. VONDELING, LABOR PARTY, CHAIRMAN OF SECOND CHAMBER AND LEADER OF DELEGATION: "THE DUTCH ARE WELCOME IN CHINA. THE CHINESE ARE PERFECT HOSTS AND THERE IS NO END TO THEIR HOSPITALITY." HE HOPES THAT CHINESE PARLIAMENTARIANS WILL VISIT THE NETHERLANDS NEXT YEAR. "CHINA'S INDEPENDENCE MADE A GREAT IMPRESSION ON ME. I DARE SAY THAT OF ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CHINA HAS MADE THE MOST FANTASTIC PROGRESS IN A SHORT TIME. WE HAVE THE FEELING THAT IN BIG OUTLINES WE KNOW HOW MATTERS STAND. THE ONLY DRAW-BACK IS THE LACK OF GOOD STATISTICAL INFORMATION. THE CHINESE LEADERS HAVE NO OFFENSIVE INTENTIONS, AT LEAST NOT IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IT DEPENDS ALSO ON WHO WILL BE THE FUTURE NEW LEADERS. THE PRESENT REGIME IS FOCUSSED ENTIRELY ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS. FOR THE REST, WE HAVE NOT DISCOVERED A CLOSED SYSTEM IN THE SENSE UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT THE LEADERS WOULD NOT WANT TO LISTEN TO OTHERS."

3. VAN THIJN, LABOR PARTY FLOOR LEADER, SECON CHAMBER:

"CHINA IS NOT A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY IN THE WESTERN SENSE OF THE

WORD. MARXISTIC-LENINISM IS THE PREVAILING IDEOLOGY. THERE IS NO, OR HARDLY ANY, ROOM FOR OTHER OPINIONS. THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT EMBODIED IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY IS A FACT. HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE TOO EASY TO DISMISS THE CHINESE SYSTEM AS SOMETHING TO TURN UP ONE'S NOSE AT. THAT WOULD DO INJUSTICE TO THE ENTIRELY NEW DIRECTION IN WHICH CHINESE COMMUNISM IS MOVING. THE DIFFERENCES WITH COMMUNISM IN EASTERN EUROPE ARE SO GREAT THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO CONSIDER THESE SYSTEMS TO BE ALIKE."

4. WIEGEL, LIBERAL PARTY FLOOR LEADER, SECOND CHAMBER:

"THE ABSOLUTE HIGHLIGHT OF THE VISIT, IN MY OPINION, IS THE 1 1/2 HOUR VISIT WITH PRIME MINISTER CHOU-EN-LAI. DIRECT AND OPEN, HE GAVE THE STAND POINT OF HIS COUNTRY ABOUT FOREIGN POLICY AND DEFENSE. THE CHINESE OPINION IS THAT THERE ARE TWO SUPER-POWERS IN THE WORLD: THE U.S. AND SOVIET RUSSIA. IN ANSWER TO OUR QUESTIONS, IT WAS EXPLAINED THAT CHINA DOES NOT CONSIDER ITSELF A SUPER-POWER BECAUSE IT IS NOT AFTER CONTROL OF OTHER COUNTRIES. "DURING A VISIT TO THE ARMY CAMP WE WERE TOLD THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WOULD WELCOME IT IF THE WESTERN COUNTRIES MAINTAIN A STRONG NATO. IN A TALK WITH THE UNDERSECRETARY OF TRADE WE WERE TOLD THAT CHINA SUPPORTS THE STRIVING FOR A UNITED EUROPE. "WHEN OUR DELEGATION EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE WOULD LEAD TO MORE PEACE IN THE WORLD, CHOU POINTED AT THE STANDPOINTS OF NIXON, HEATH, POMPIDOU AND THE WEST-GERMAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE. HE SAID: "ALL OF THEM HAVE DECLARED THEMSELVES IN FAVOR OF MILITARY STRENGTHENING OF THE WEST; ALL OF THEM WANT A STRENGTHENING OF WESTERN EUROPE; NIXON WANTS THE AMERICAN TROOPS TO STAY IN EUROPE. EUROPE WILL HAVE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS FINANCIALLY. FOR VARIOUS REASONS THIS IS BEING THWARTED. FOR INSTANCE THROUGH THE ELECTION PROGRAM OF THE THREE LEFT-WING PARTIES IN THE NETHERLANDS." THIS AND SIMILAR STATEMENTS SHOWED HOW MUCH CHOU KNOWS ABOUT THE SITUATION IN WESTERN EUROPE AND HOW MUCH CHINA IS INTERESTED IN IT. WESTERN EUROPE, ACCORDING TO CHOU, MUST STRENGTHEN ITS UNITY. HE SAID: "HOW ELSE CAN IT STAND UP TO THE INFLUENCE OF SOVIET RUSSIA. HOW CAN IT KEEP ITS FREEDOM WITHOUT UNCLASSIFIED

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STRENGTHENING ITS DEFENSE? THE SUPER POWERS FOR 28 YEARS HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT REDUCING ARMAMENT, BUT EACH YEAR THEY ALLOCATE MORE MONEY FOR THEIR MILITARY APPARATUS."

"IT WAS REMARKABLE THAT CHOU IN HIS TALKS WITH US ONLY REFERRED TO THE WESTERN DEFENSE AND THE WEAKENING OF IT, FEARED CHINA. IN ANSWER TO OUR QUESTION WHETHER THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, LIKE HE DOES, WANTS TO MAINTAIN THE CONTACT BETWEEN CHINA AND THE NETHERLANDS, HE SAID YES, BUT IMMEDIATELY CONTINUED HIS PLEA FOR GREATER AND STRONGER UNITY OF THE WEST. WE WERE TOLD FRANKLY BUT SELF-ASSUREDLY EVERYWHERE WE WENT, THAT CHINA FEARS SOVIET RUSSIA, ALTHOUGH "FEAR" IS HERE THE WRONG WORD, BECAUSE CHINA, IN CASE OF AN ATTACK, IS READY TO HIT BACK AND WILL FIGHT. WE WERE TOLD DURING OUR VISIT THAT IF A COUNTRY IS WEAK, IT WILL BE ATTACKED BY SOVIET RUSSIA; LOOK AT INDIA, IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN. SOVIET RUSSIA

FOR THE FIRST TIME IS PRESENT IN THE PACIFIC. SOVIET RUSSIA, COUNTRY TO CHINA, DOES NOT CONSIDER BIG AND SMALL COUNTRIES AS EQUAL. IT WANTS THE HEGEMONY OVER SMALLER COUNTRIES.

"THE CHINESE PRIME MINISTER FIERCELY DENIED OUR POSSIBLE SUGGESTION THAT CHINA FAVORS STRENGTHENING OF THE WESTERN DEFENSE BECAUSE IN THAT CASE A GREAT DEAL OF THE RUSSIAN ARMY WILL REMAIN STATIONED ON THE BORDER BETWEEN WEST AND EAST-EUROPE, AND SOVIET RUSSIA WILL THEREFORE NOT BE ABLE TO SEND TROOPS TO THE BORDER BETWEEN RUSSIA AND CHINA. CHOU SAID THAT CHINA IS READY TO STAND UP TO ANY KIND OF AGGRESSION.

"THE SHARP WARNING OF CHOU TO THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT TO KEEP THE DEFENSE EFFORTS AT A HIGH LEVEL VERY MUCH EMBARRASSED THE THREE LEADERS OF THE LEFT-WING PARTIES. I SAID TO THEM: "YOU WOULD NOT HAVE THOUGHT THAT THE CHINESE PRIME MINISTER HAS THE SAME STANDPOINT ABOUT DEFENSE AS THE VVD (LIBERAL PARTY) HAS."

5. ROOLVINK, ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY (PROTESTANT) PARTY MEMBER, SECOND CHAMBER:

"CHOU-EN-LAI APPEARED TO BE COMPLETELY ABREAST OF THE POLITICAL PROGRAMS IN THE NETHERLANDS. HE WAS PARTICULARLY WELL INFORMED ABOUT THE PLANS OF THE THREE PROGRESSIVE PARTIES, AIMING TO REDUCE THE LEVEL OF MILITARY DEFENSES OF WESTERN EUROPE. HE WARNED STRONGLY AGAINST THIS. HE SPOKE ABOUT DIFFERENT TYPES OF IMPERIALISM.

HE SAID WE HAVE EXPERIENCED BRITISH, JAPANESE AND AMERICAN IMPERIALISM. NOW THERE IS ONE MORE TYPE. WE CALL IT SOCIAL
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IMPERIALISM. HE SPOKE POLITELY IN THIS CASE ABOUT THEIR NEIGHBORS TO THE NORTH. THREE GUESSES WHO THESE NEIGHBORS ARE. CHOU-EN-LAI ADVISED THAT WESTERN EUROPE MAKE ITSELF AS STRONG AS POSSIBLE; YOU MUST TIE THE RUSSIAN AND AMERICAN TROOPS (TO EUROPE). AND THIS REPRESENTS A FREE INTERPRETATION ON MY BEHALF, BUT I FEEL THAT THIS IS WHAT MR. CHOU MEANT-THE MORE THESE TWO COUNTRIES TIE UP THEIR FORCES IN EUROPE, THE GREATER WILL BE THE SENSE OF SECURITY IN CHINA. MY IMPRESSION WAS THAT CHINA REALLY FEELS ITSELF THREATENED. THREATENED BY THE RUSSIANS. AS I ALREADY MENTIONED EARLIER - THE RELATIONS BETWEEN RUSSIA AND CHINA ARE EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS ABOUT RELAXING THE MILITARY PREPAREDNESS OF WESTERN EUROPE."
TANGUY

UNCLASSIFIED

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